

Message Text

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21-12
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SSO-00

CCO-00 PCH-02 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 030715

R 042122Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY SANA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
DECEMBER 4, 1973:

SPOKESMAN OPENED BRIEFING WITH ANNOUNCEMENT SENT YOU
SEPTEL REGARDING SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST CAPITALS
DECEMBER 13-17.

QUOTE: Q. IS THERE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY
WILL NOT GO TO GENEVA?

A. NO. I WOULD STAY IN MY POSITION WHERE I WAS YESTERDAY.
IF YOU RECALL, YESTERDAY I SAID VERY FLATLY THAT WE WERE
REASONABLY HOPEFUL THAT THE TALKS WOULD GET UNDER WAY IN
KILOMETER 101 AND THAT WE HOPED THESE IN TURN WOULD LEAD
TO A CONFERENCE IN GENEVA ON DECEMBER 18TH.

Q. WELL, IF THERE IS A CONFERENCE IN GENEVA ON DECEMBER 18TH
IS HE GOING THERE?

A. I CAN'T ANNOUNCE ANY SUCH THING -- BUT IT'S A REASONABLE
ASSUMPTION.

Q. IS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE 18TH DEPENDENT ON THE
RESULTS OF THIS TRIP, IN ANY WAY?

A. ALL I'M SAYING IS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE A
RELATIONSHIP. I'M NOT GOING TO ESTABLISH A DEPENDENCY.

Q. SINCE THE TALKS ARE TO TAKE PLACE ACCORDING TO
RESOLUTION 338 UNDER APPROPRIATE AUSPICES, AND THOSE
AUSPICES HAVE SINCE BEEN DEFINED AS SOVIET AND AMERICAN,
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WILL THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES BE ISSUING THE
INVITATIONS OR WILL SOMEBODY ELSE ISSUE THE INVITATIONS?

A. I COULDN'T SAY TODAY. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. NOW, LAST WEEK YOU SAID SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM
WOULD. HAS THAT BEEN CHANGED?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER -- APPARENTLY IT WAS NOT CAUGHT HERE, BUT I DID SAY THIS AND THEN I CORRECTED MYSELF -- WHICH DID NOT, APPARENTLY, GET TAKEN DOWN IN THE RECORD, BECAUSE THEN I TURNED AROUND -- KNOWING MY OWN SELF IN THAT MATTER -- AND SAID, "NO; I'D LIKE TO PUT IT THIS WAY: AT THAT POINT, INVITATIONS WILL BE ISSUED" -- BECAUSE IT PUT IT IN THE PAST IMPERFECT TENSE OR WHATEVER IT IS, SIMPLY BECAUSE I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DEFINE WHO WILL ISSUE THE INVITATION, PRECISELY, AND HOW IT WILL BE DONE -- AT THIS STAGE.

Q. TO GET BACK TO THE QUESTION OF INVITATION, IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCEPTING OR EXPECTING RESPONSES TO THIS DRAFT LETTER, OR ARE THEY BYPASSING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT; AND WHO HAS RESPONDED, IF ANYONE?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE INVITATION; THAT'S ALL. WE'VE CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN EXTENDED AND THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS GOING ON. AND WHEN WE KNOW THE COMPLETE RESULTS I'LL BE IN A POSITION TO SAY SOMETHING ELSE, BUT I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY ANY MORE.

Q. DO I UNDERSTAND YOU RIGHT THAT YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED A LINK BETWEEN THE 101 TALKS AND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. NO MORE LINK THAN THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN. WE HAVE ALWAYS SEEN THE CONVERSATIONS AT 101 AS A CONTRIBUTORY, WHICH WILL, WE HOPE, CLEAR UP SOME OF THE GROUND WHERE THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AND WILL HELP PROVIDE MOMENTUM TO MOVE ON TO THIS CONFERENCE. SO THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT RELATIONSHIP. BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS I WISH TO GO.

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Q. IS IT NOT TRUE THAT ONE OF THE ORIGINAL AND FINAL POSITIONS IN THE AGREEMENT IN THE CEASE-FIRE WAS THAT THE MILITARY CONFERENCES AND THE SUBJECT OF TROOP PULLBACK MUST BE SETTLED BEFORE THEY COULD GO ON TO ANY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS?

A. NO, I DON'T THINK THAT WAS THE CASE. IT WAS NOT THAT THEY MUST BE SETTLED, IT WAS ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES. ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES WAS IN ARTICLE 2, AS I RECALL IT, TO ATTEMPT TO MAKE HEADWAY IN THIS AREA. IT DID NOT SAY THAT EVERYTHING MUST BE SETTLED, BECAUSE IF YOU HAD YOU WOULD HAVE HAD TO MAKE A VERY DEFINITIVE OBJECTIVE JUDGMENT AS TO WHAT HAD TO BE DONE BEFORE YOU COULD GO TO ANYTHING ELSE.

Q . IS IT CORRECT TO ASSUME THAT INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN
ISSUED TO A PEACE CONFERENCE?

A. FORMAL INVITATIONS, I HAVE NO INFORMATION TO GIVE YOU
ON THAT.

Q . THEREFORE, THERE ARE NO ACCEPTANCES?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION REALLY TO ANSWER ANYTHING BEYOND
WHAT I SAID LAST TIME, WHICH IS THAT THE INFORMAL INVITATIONS
WERE EXTENDED TO THE COUNTRIES. THAT'S AS FAR AS
I CAN GO. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANA.

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NNN

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